PUDUKKOTTAI STATE

NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU

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# THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE WAR.

On that fateful day—September 3, 1939, just three years ago Britain declared War on Germany to rid the world of a wickedness which it had never known. Since then three years of blood, sweat and tears have followed. A new savagery, exceeding the horrors of cavemen and cannibals has swept over Europe and extended to other continents.

It is all the diabolism of one man—the vaulting ambition of Hitler who would be a Napoleon, a Caesar, and a Messiah rolled into one. His aim is to prostitute a machine age for the establishment of a new tyranny miscalled the New Order.

For this he has let slips the dogs of war on a peaceful age.

"Thane of Glamis - yes ; Thane of Cawdor - yes ; King - yes; but Victory—never ; Peace - Never"—so said the witches to Macbeth on the blasted heath of Forres. So, over devastated Europe the Fates have said to Hitler—France, and Belgium - yes ; Norway and Holland - yes ; Yugo-slavia and Greecee—yes ; but victory and peace - never. Not all his conquests will bring him victory, as no waters even of the deep salt sea will wash his hands incarnadine, of the blood of innocent nations he has spilt. Old Europe, like old Duncan may be dead ; but a new Europe - rescued by Britain shall arise and a new freedom, a charter born in the bosom of the Atlantic shall bless mankind.

This is the logic of events. Britain who stood alone in 1940 has now gathered 28 Nations to her side. Of the three Axis confiderates, one has been smashed out of his African empire and another is being hemmed in in the Pacific.

The entry of America has ensured Britain of the biggest arsenal in the world; of Russia, of the biggest army; and of China, of the biggest population.

All the Middle and the Near East, the Arab world and the two Americas have joined.

All Europe, including the enslaved countries have also, in a sense, joined - though yet under the conqueror's heel, Quislings and Lavals notwithstanding, notwithstanding the Waffen—S. S. and the inhuman reprisals; the whole of Europe has turned saboteur and is awaiting the hour to strike back.

The enemy is being hoisted with his own petard. The bomber and the fighter—those infernal machines with which he blotted out fair cities like Warsaw and Rotterdam have now been turned against him—to blast his devil's workshops—at Cologne and Hamburg.

Short of food, Germany must now feed a whole continent. The grain of Ukraine which Hitler hoped to plunder has been scorched.

German planes which are athirst for Russian oil are being grounded as they cannot reach the coveted oil-fields.

In the Russian army Hitler has caught a tartar. Russia is always but never to be beaten; the Soviet army springs eternal, in the German rear and flank and front, confounding the enemy. Phoenix-like, it rises out of its ashes.

Hitler's move, just at present is the most desperate of gambles, and as portents go, may be his last. He has staked his all—all his reserves of men and material. He has quarrelled with his generals; betrayed his people, and alienated his associates. Europe, turned slave to labour in his factories has begun to grumble and pull down the industrial edifices like blind Samson at the mills of Gaza.

Hitler has turned Europe into Hell, over which he hopes to rule, with Goering—a veritable Beelzebub on one side and Goebbels—the least erect of fiends at the other. But the day of retribution is near. The world has fore gathered, America, Africa, Australia and Asia, and Hitler's empire' will soon pass away in smoke and flame—from which it arose.

The noose of a blockade which Britain has thrown round Hitler is slowly and steadily tightening. Hitler's present frantic efforts are but the frantic wriggle of the dying beast.

All honour to the brave men on land, sea, and air who toil day and night to bring about this great end, all honour to the men and the women - the toilers in factory and farm who are working for victory. In these three years a miracle of miracles has been performed. Britain—wedded to peace has raised formidable armies in the field and air, while her navy the biggest ever, stands watch day and night over the oceans. In these three years, she has passed from defence to attack. The nations have also foregathered; the hour to strike has come.

In this campaign for Freedom, the Empire plays a glorious part and India has gained an honoured place. India's sons are striking for human liberty. Bulwark and arsenal, base and bastion, India stands four square to perils from the east and west.

The darkest hours of the night are nearly over: the dawn of victory is near.

## LOSE AN HOUR AND WIN THE WAR.

The New Indian standard Time—6½ hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time ushered in in a trice in India at midnight on August 31—September 1 by advancing clocks by one full hour all over the country is primarily a military measure ordered by the Government of India. The provinces most affected are east of Meridian 82½. It has been introduced to set up a uniform time for purposes of defence, to ensure sufficient working hours in daylight especially in the eastern provinces and to adjust life and work generally to wartime conditions.

Of course, besides causing some temporary inconvenience, it compels certain readjustments in habits and routine. The day's work must start earl er but then it will also cease earlier. Late risers must give up the luxury of sleeping till daylight floods the room through the window. The housewife may grumble having to prepare an early meal; the goodman may curse himself having to eat a half-finished breakfast and hasten to his office or workshop, with a hastily put on dress. But as the evening hours draw near there will be the prospect of an early return home, a long spell of rest or recreation, a dinner perhaps, to save lighting oil, even before sunlight fades and "an early to bed", which if sayings go true, must make him healthy, wealthy and wise.

But convenient or inconvenient it is a wartime necessity, a wartime economy; a little sacrifice towards a larger end.

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LECTURE CXI.

# SOLOMON ISLANDS.

*By A Former Resident.*

(*The Times of India*).

Since reading the welcome news that American marines have successfully landed in the Solomons, many people, no doubt, consulted their atlases to see where the Solomon Islands are, and in what part of the group Tulagi, the central scene of the operations, lies. The chances are that whilst they discovered that the Solomons are a group of Islands to the north-east of Queensland, they were unable to locate Tulagi, which is marked only on the largest scale maps, or on charts used for nautical purposes.

### TULAGI.

Tulagi is a small island, about four miles in perimeter, lying off the larger island of Gela, which is situated between Guadalcanar and Malaita. The nearest point on Guadalcanar to Tulagi is about eighteen miles distant, and from Tulagi to Malaita is roughly twice as far. Tulagi, which is the only settlement of any size in the Solomons, is the administrative seat of the Government, and has a hospital, gaol, police barracks and various Government offices. There is also a small commerical quarter which is entirely in the hands of Chinese. In normal times, the native population numbers about 600, with about 30 Europeans, mainly officials, and some hundred Chinese.

Not more than a mile from Tulagi is the small island of Makambo, where a big Sydeny firm have their main store, copra sheds and wharf, the latter deep enough to accommodate the 3,000-ton Sydney steamer which calls at Makambo during its tour of the group every six weeks. A few miles farther away is the island of Gavutu, recently reported as having been bombed by the R. A. A. F. Gavutu is the headquarters of Lever Brothers Copra Plantation Company, and boasts various large copra sheds and also an engineering shop, in which are carried out repairs to the engines of the various schooners and other small craft which form the only means of communication between the different islands of the group. Between Gavutu and Tulagi is a well sheltered anchorage, deep enough for vessels of all sizes, which has no doubt been exploited to the full by the Japanese invaders.

## AIR BASES.

Further afield lies the large island of Guadalcanar, so called by the Spanish Admiral Mendoza who first discovered the Solomons some 350 years ago. A high, densely wooded mountain range traverses the whole length of Guadalcanar. This central mountain range is common to most of the bigger islands in the group, but whereas in the other islands the almost impenetrable jungle extends right to the sea coast, on the side of Gudalcanar opposite Tulagi there is a plain, slightly above sea level, extending several miles from the coast inland; it is covered with high grass and could be used for the construction of airfields. It is probably on this part of Guadalcanar that the Japanese have made their air bases. Indeed, Kukum, mentioned some weeks ago in a *communique* as having been attacked by Allied airforces, is the name of a plantation owned by Lever Brothers and is situated in the district just described.

That the Japanese had foreseen the strategic value of the Solomons, and particularly the central part of the group, is well known to anybody who has lived in those islands. For several years before the outbreak of war Japanese sampans were in the habit of visiting the Solomons. These sampans, fitted up with modern Diesel engines, were manned by a crew of fifteen or so young Japanese, who, being expert divers, poached the reefs for trochus shell, with complete disregard for the international law which prohibits diving without a licence within the three-mile limit. European planters, who were in the habit of employing their native labour as divers when the price of copra was low, and their native neighbours, who dived for shell in order to sell it to Chinese traders, mutually avoided the reef lying opposite the plantation or the village.

Not so the Japanese; they poached all and every reef without compunction, and relied upon the superior speed of their sampans to make their escape upon the approach of a Government schooner. Diving for trochus shell however, was only one phase of the sampan crews' activities. As a result of their frequent expeditions among the Solomons, New Guinea and the New Hebrides, they gained much firsthand knowledge of the little known anchorages and difficult passages of these groups—knowledge which was doubtless of the utmost value to them during their occupation of these islands.

## SHORT BOUNDS.

Emphasis had been laid in the accounts of the American attack on Tulagi on the aggressive nature of the operations, which are, presumably, not designed solely to prevent a further southerly penetration of the islands by the Japanese.

A glance at the map will show that if the Americans succeed in establishing themselves in the central portion of the group, they may be able to advance by short bounds, taking in their stride those islands—Isabel, Choiseul and Bougainville—which lie to the north-west of Tulagi. Should they be able to do so, not only will Rabaul, the headquarters of the Japanese forces in New Guinea, be threatened, but Japanese forces which have seized settlements such as Salamaua and Buna on the north coast of New Guinea, with a view to alunching an attack on Port Moresby, will be outflanked and the threat to Australia greatly lessened.

Again, the occupation by the Americans of these islands does not entail the reconquest, foot by foot, of each island. Provided the Americans are able to seize Gizo, Faisi and Kieta, the only three ports of any size between Tulagi and Rabaul, the Japanese forces will then be compelled to fall back into the densely wooded adjacent islands, where the likelihood of their being able to hold out for any length of time, cut off from their supplies and harried by a hostile native population, is practically negligible. And that the islanders, a race who not 50 years ago regarded head-hunting and inter-tribal warfare as one of the common events of daily life, will turn upon the invaders so soon as there is any prospect of their being able to do so successfully, can scarcely be doubted.

### "CO-PROSPERITY".

Japanese propaganda, successful enough in other spheres of the war, is not likely to have made much headway among people who have had good cause to remember the depredations of the Japanese trochus shell-divers. The Far East "co-prosperity scheme" will not prove too attractive to those who, even before the war, have had practical experience of what its sponsors really mean by co-prosperity. To this fact may be added another, and that is that the not inconsiderable Chinese population in the group are, almost to a man, fervent partisans of the Chungking Government, whom they have supported since the outbreak of the "China incident" with considerable sums of money.

**So we may look forward with a fair measure of confidence to the success of the American offensive which, aided by a friendly population, should go far not only to freeing the islands of the South-West Pacific from the invader, but also to initiating a series of aggressive movements designed to carry the war to Japan itself.**

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# WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

## 29—8—42 to 4—9—42.

**Russia.**—Fierce battles rage north-west and south-west of STALINGRAD in the area of a triangle, with the city at the apex and KLETSKAYA and KATALINKOVO at the base. A mass raid on the city in ROTTERDOM fashion is reported. Near the city a fresh battle has started to keep the Volga open.

In the Western CAUCASUS the German attempt to break through to NOVOROSSISK and TUAPSE on the Block Sea continues. Here the enemy's attempt to land forces by sea to join those on land was thwarted.

In the Eastern CAUCASUS the enemy has resumed his efforts to cross the Terek river at PROKHLADNAYA on his way to GROZNY.

Von Bock's Alpine troops are showing enterprise in penetrating the CAUCASUS and BERLIN claims they have reached the top of Mt. Elburz already; but it may be only a spectacular attempt.

At RZHEV the Soviet advance has slowed down under enemy presure.

A Russian offensive has started at LENINGRAD; a Russian break through at LADOGA and a counter-offensive at KALUGA.

Three enemy transports were sunk in the Barents Sea.

It will thus be seen that not one but several battles are now raging from LENINGRAD to the CAUCASUS. In the north the Russians are on the offensive; in the centre they have the initiative. At the Don bend STALINGRAD is in a state of siege; while in the south, though the German progress is slow towards NOVOROSSISK it is perilously near GROZNY and is approaching TIFLIS, the capital of TRANS-CAUCASIA. Russian successes in the northern sectors should not be exaggerated as they are primarily defensive and diversionary, in character, and except as they are signs of Russian strength.

**Egypt.**—Rommel struck again on Monday, and according to his practice attacked the Allied left flank near EL HIMEIMAT, 25 miles south of EL ALAMEIN. The fighting consisted mainly of tank-clashes. Rommel is said to have advanced some eight miles through the Allies' mine-fields. A weak thrust against the main line by the Italians was repulsed.

According to an Italian communiqué an Allied landing was attempted on CERIGOTIO ISLAND near CRETE. Fighter sweeps were carried out over Sicilian landing-ground and enemy shipping were attacked in CRETE and the Corinth canal. TOBRUK, and EL DABA were raided.

**South Pacific.**—We had occasion to report last week the Allied successes in the SOLOMONS ending in the capture of six Islands, including the harbour of TULAGI and the air base at GUDALCANAR. A furious engagement to dislodge the American marines ended in beating off a Japanese fleet including capital ships, aircraft-carriers and transports. The enemy, has for the moment withdrawn from the SOLOMONS, though he may come again. In the words of Mr. Walter Nash, NEW ZEALAND's Prime Minister, the news is 'rather encouraging: the gain is real.'

The enemy's next attempt to land at Milne Bay in NEW GUINEA with a view to seize MORESBY has also failed. The Japanese who had landed underestimating the Allied strength have suddenly withdrawn.

News has since arrived reporting fresh activities at KOKODA where the enemy has succeeded in filtering through the Allied lines across the Owen Stanly Mountains on the way to MORESBY.

**China.**—The Chinese have captured quite a number of places and the list is pretty long. TSINHSUN, TUNGSIANG, CHUHSIEN (a Raid-TOKYO base) YUANTANG, SUICHANG, LIKITAN, TUCHANG, LINGSCHANCHAN SUNYANG, LIENTANG, LUNGYU, ANGKANG and FUYI. Two conclusions may be drawn from these successes—one, that Marshel Chiang-Kei's forces have become strong enough for an offensive; and two, that JAPAN is withdrawing her forces for a trial of strength elsewhere. Two other things are also evident: it has now become clear that JAPAN cannot fight a Pacific and Chinese war simultaneously and the 'Raid-TOKYO' bases are again becoming available to the Allies for an offensive on JAPAN.

**Burma.**—Armed Naga guerillas operated against the Japanese on the ASSAM-BURMA border. The R. A. F. attacked the aerodrome at MAGWE and river craft at AKYAB.

**Air-Raids.**—The R. A. F. carried out air raids over ABBEVILLE, ROTTERDAM, NUREMBURG, SAARBUCKEN and KASSE. The Russian Air Force bombed BERLIN, DANZIG, KOENIGSBURG, STARGRAD, FUEROTENWALDE, STOLP, SENAIDEMUHL and TRAPTOW. There were Anglo-American air sweeps over ST. OMER and ETRATAT.

**Miscellaneous.**—1. Plans are in progress for the formation of a Mexican Expeditionary Force of 400,000 men to be sent to any theatre of war in aid of the United Nations.

2. URUGUAY has issued a decree placing the country in a state of 'near belligerency'

3. President Vargas is creating a National Civil Defence Service.

4. North American forces are going to co-operate in the defence of the coasts of BRAZIL and URUGUAY.

5. Mr. Shigenori Togo, Japan's Foreign Minister has resigned.

6. The Fighting French army in the MIDDLE EAST, AFRICA and the Pacific has reached a total of 60,000. Sailors were fighting under the French flag in destroyers, corvetters, submarine-chasers and sweepers. 2,800 air men were fighting on each side of the Channel and over LIBYA and EGYPT.'

7. ABYSSINIA is now a full sovereign state—All British troops have now left ADDIS ABABA except for a small guard for the British Legation.

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# ALLIED Air Raids over ENEMY and ENEMY-occupied COUNTRIES.

| Date. | Targets. | Damage caused by air bombardment. | Aircraft losses for Allies. | Aircraft losses for Enemies. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 24—8—42. (Monday). | | | | |
| | **GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).** | | | |
| **NIGHT :—** | | | | |
| | **Military objectives** in UPPER RHINELAND, particularly at FRANKFURT and WIESBADEN. | | 16 planes. | |
| | **Railway objectives** in the LOW COUNTRIES | Many engines destroyed. | | |
| | **LIBYA. (By British planes).** | | | |
| | **Enemy transport vehicles** in the Southern sector of the EL ALAMEIN Front. | | | |
| | **IONIAN SEA (By British planes).** | | | |
| | **A tanker and other vessels** in IONIAN SEA. | | | |
| | **RUSSIA. (By Russian planes).** | | | |
| | **Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes** along the entire Eastern Front. | | | |
| | **FAR EAST—CHINA. (By American and British planes).** | | | |
| | **Jap held air bases** in CHEKIANG. | | | |
| | **TIMOR. (By American and British planes).** | | | |
| | **Jap positions** in TIMOR. | | | |
| | **NEW GUINEA. (By American and British planes).** | | | |
| | **Aircraft on the ground** at BUNA. | | | 13 planes. |
| | **A small escorted Japanese convoy** south-east of NEW GUINEA. | | 1 plane. | |
| | **NEW BRITAIN. (By American and British planes).** | | | |
| | **Enemy sea-plane bases** in NEW BRITAIN, RABAUL. | | 1 plane. | |

| Date | Targets. | Damage caused by air bombardment | Aircraft losses for Allies. | Aircraft losses for Enemies |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 25—8—42 (Tuesday). | | | | |
| | **GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE (By British planes).** | | | |
| **NIGHT :—** | | | | |
| | **FRANKFURT** and **WIESBADEN,** (RHINELAND towns.) | | | |
| | **German supply ships in a convoy** north of TERSCHELLING Islands. | | | |
| | **LIBYA. (By British planes).** | | | |
| | **Enemy east bound transport** behind the enemy's lines. | | | |
| | **Vehicles** on the SOLLUM—MERSA MATRUH Road. | | | |
| | **Tanks and vehicles** in the battle area. | | | |
| | **Three landing grounds** near EL DABA. | | | |
| | **A camp and vehicles** near FUKA. | | | |
| | **RUSSIA. (By Russian planes).** | | | |
| | **Air combats** over the entire battle area. | | | |
| | **FAR EAST—NEW GUINEA. (By American and British planes).** | | | |
| | **A Jap convoy** in MILNE BAY. | A cruiser sunk; a destroyer damaged. | | |
| | **Aerodromes** at BUNA. | | | |
| | **TIMOR. (By American and British planes).** | | | |
| | **Jap installations** at DILLI. | | | |
| 26—8—42 (Wednesday) | | | | |
| | **GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).** | | | |
| **DAY :—** | | | | |
| | **The docks and a tanker** at LA PALLICE. | | | |
| **NIGHT :—** | | | | |
| | **Laying mines** in enemy waters. | | | |

**LIBYA. (By British planes).**

Axis supply vehicles at MERSA MATRUH.

Tank and vehicle concentration in the battle area.

**RUSSIA. (By Russian planes).**

Air combats and grounded aircraft along the entire Russian Front.

**GERMANY. (By Russian planes).**

Military and Industrial objectives in BERLIN DANZIG, KOENIGSBURG, STARGRAD, FUERSTENWALDE, STOIP, SCNEIDE-MUHL, TREPTOW, STETTIN and TILSIT.

**FAR EAST—BURMA. (By American and British planes).**

The aerodrome and runaways at LASHIO. 4 planes.

**NEW GUINEA. (By American and British planes).**

Enemy barges, supplies and finel dumps on the shore at MILNE BAY.

**27—8—42 (Thursday).**

**GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).**

**DAY:—**

3 German ships lying off DIEPPE harbour. 1 ship hit. No loss.

The German airfield at ABBEVILLE.

Shipyards at ROTTERDAM.

**NIGHT:—**

HENSCHEL Works at KASSEL. Heavily damaged.

Military objectives at Port GDYNIA.

Railway and other targets in occupied FRANCE. 1 plane.

Enemy shipping in the ENGLISH CHANNEL. 2 ships set on fire.

**LIBYA. (By British planes).**

Concentrations of enemy transport in the southern sector of EL ALAMEIN Front.

Enemy barges off the AFRICAN coast.



**CRETE. (By British planes).**

A large axis tanker in the Eastern MEDITERRANEAN off CRETE.

**RUSSIA. (By Russian planes).**

Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the Russian Front.

**FAR EAST—NEW GUINEA. (By American and British planes**

An aerodrome at BUNA.

LAE.

**28—8—42 (Friday).**

**GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).**

**DAY:—**

Air frame factory at MEAULTE.

Offensive sweeps over ST. OMER and ETRETAT. 1 plane. 1 plane.

**NIGHT:—**

Military objectives at NUREMBURG and SAARBRUCKEN.

Offensive patrol over Northern FRANCE. } 30 planes.

**LIBYA. (By British planes).**

The harbour and shipping at TOBRUK.

Motor transport on the road west of BARDIA.

A landing ground at EL DABA.

Stores and workshops in the EL DABA area.

**RUSSIA. (By Russian planes).**

Air combats over the battle area.

**FAR EAST—BURMA. (By American and British planes).**

The aerodrome at MAGWE.

**CHINA. (By American and British planes).**

LISHUI.

**NEW BRITAIN. (By American and British planes).**

An aerodrome at RABAUL.

**NEW GUINEA. (By American and British planes).**

An air field at BUNA.

## ALLIED Air Raids over ENEMY and ENEMY-occupied COUNTRIES—*cont.*

| Date. Targets. | Damage caused by air bombardment. | Aircraft losses for Allies. | Aircraft losses for Enemies. |
|---|---|---|---|
| **28—8—42 (Friday)—cont.** | | | |
| **SOLOMONS.** (By American and British planes). | | | |
| An enemy aerodrome at BUKA. | | | |
| **S. W. PACIFIC.** (By American and British planes). | | | |
| An enemy cargo vessel off AMBON. | | | |
| **29—8—42 (Saturday).** | | | |
| **GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.** (By British planes). | | | |
| **DAY:—** | | | |
| The docks at OSTEND. | | No loss. | |
| The power station in LILLE-LENS area. | | No loss. | |
| The German aerodrome at WEVELGHEM. | | No loss. | |
| **NIGHT:—** | | | |
| Laying mines in enemy coastal waters. | | | |
| **GERMANY.** (By Russian planes). | | | |
| Military and industrial objectives in BERLIN, KOENIGSBURG, DANZIG, STETTIN and other places. | | | |
| **LIBYA.** (By British planes). | | | |
| Tanks, motor-transport and tents in the battle area. | | | |
| Motor transport and camps along the FUKA-SIDI-RAHMAN road. | | | |
| **RUSSIA.** (By Russian planes). | | | |
| Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the whole Eastern Front. | | | |
| **FAR EAST—BURMA.** (By American and British planes). | | | |
| The aerodrome at MYITKYINA. | | | |
| **NEW GUINEA.** (By American and British planes). | | | |
| Enemy cruiser and transport ships off NEW GUINEA. | | | |
| **30—8—42 (Sunday).** | | | |
| **GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.** (By British planes) | | | |
| **DAY:—** | | | |
| No information available. | | | |
| **NIGHT:—** | | | |
| Laying mines in enemy waters. | | | |
| **LIBYA.** (By British planes). | | | |
| The harbour and shipping at TOBRUK. | | | |
| Enemy shipping off the coast of CYRENAICA. | 3 ships hit. | | |
| The landing grounds at EL DABA. | | | |
| Enemy transport vehicles near MERSA MATRUH. | | | |
| Enemy tanks and armoured vehicles in the battle area. | | | |
| Air combats over the battle area. | | | 2 planes. |
| **RUSSIA.** (By Russian planes). | | | |
| Air combats over the entire battle area. | | | |
| **FAR EAST—BURMA.** (By American and British planes). | | | |
| Rivercraft near AKYAB. | | | |
| **CHINA.** (By American and British planes). | | | |
| NANCHANG. | | | |
| **NEW GUINEA.** (By American and British planes). | | | |
| Aerodrome area, buildings and installations at LAE. | | | |
| Assisting land forces at KOKODA. | | | |
| An enemy camp at BUNA. | | | |

# ENEMY Air Raids over Allied Territories.

| Date. | Targets. | Damage caused by air bombardment. | Aircraft losses for Enemies | Aircraft losses for Allies |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 25—8—42 (Tuesday). | | | | |
| | BRITAIN. (By German planes). | | | |
| NIGHT:— | | | | |
| | Scattered points on the south coast of ENGLAND. | | | |
| | MEDITERRANEAN. (By German planes) | | | |
| | MALTA. | | | |
| | RUSSIA. (By German planes). | | | |
| | STALINGRAD. | | | |
| | FAR EAST—SOLOMONS. (By Jap planes). | | | |
| | TULAGI. | | | |
| 26—8—42 (Wednesday). | | | | |
| | BRITAIN. (By German planes). | | | |
| DAY:— | | | | |
| | A place on the south coast of ENGLAND. | | 1 plane. | |
| NIGHT:— | | | | |
| | RUSSIA. (By German planes). | | | |
| | STALINGRAD. | | | |
| | FAR EAST—AUSTRALIA. (By Jap planes). | | | |
| | Port DARWIN. | | | |
| 27—8—42 (Thursday). | | | | |
| | BRITAIN. (By German planes). | | | |
| NIGHT:— | | | | |
| | A few places in Northern ENGLAND. | Slight damage. | 1 plane. | |
| | EGYPT. (By German planes). | | | |
| | NILE DELTA. | | 1 plane. | |
| | RUSSIA. (By German planes). | | | |
| | STALINGRAD. | | | |
| 28—8—42 (Friday). | | | | |
| | BRITAIN. (By German planes). | | | |
| DAY:— | | | | |
| | South-west coast of ENGLAND. | | 1 plane. | |

| Date. | Targets. | Damage caused by air bombardment. | Aircraft losses for Enemies | Aircraft losses for Allies |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| NIGHT:— | | | | |
| | No information available. | | | |
| | MEDITERRANEAN. (By German planes). | | | |
| | MALTA. | | | |
| | FAR EAST—AUSTRALIA. (By Jap planes). | | | |
| | BROOME. | | | |
| | RUSSIA. (By German planes). | | | |
| | STALINGRAD. | | | |
| 29—8—42 (Saturday). | | | | |
| | BRITAIN. (By German planes). | | | |
| | No information available. | | | |
| | EGYPT. (By German planes). | | | |
| | CAIRO area. | | | |
| | RUSSIA. (By German planes). | | | |
| | STALINGRAD. | | | |
| | FAR EAST. | | | |
| | No information available. | | | |
| 30—8—42 (Sunday). | | | | |
| | BRITAIN. (By German planes). | | | |
| | No information available. | | | |
| | MEDITERRANEAN. (By German planes). | | | |
| | Sweeps over MALTA. | | | |
| | FAR EAST—AUSTRALIA. (By Jap planes). | | | |
| | Port DARWIN. | | | |
| 31—8—42 (Monday). | | | | |
| | BRITAIN. (By German planes). | | | |
| | No information of any air activity. | | | |
| | RUSSIA. (By German planes). | | | |
| | Russian towns behind the lines. | | | |
| | FAR EAST—NEW GUINEA. (By Jap planes). | | | |
| | An aerodrome near MILNE BAY. | | | |

# SIDE LIGHTS.

**THE FOOD FRONT.** As was to be expected the food problem, always to the forefront has assumed large dimensions in war time. It is a problem affecting soldier and civilian alike. By a curious coincidence two documents have been published during the week on the subject, one by the British Ministry of Food and the other by the Food Advisory Council at Delhi. The British statement reveals a situation of 'outstanding success' wrought by the adoption of drastic remedies, while in India the difficulties are being tackled slowly and definitely.

The problem of national feeding ranging from production to distribution is a varied and complicated process. It involves an agricultural revival, with the slogan of 'Back to the Land'; it involves questions of transport, by road, rail, and water: of waggons, boats and shipping; it means the middleman, the broker, the wholesaler, and the retailer, as also profiteering, hoarding and black-marketing. Further it has to suit the taste, as well as the pocket of the consumer; not to speak, also of the scientific needs of a balanced diet, so very necessary for individual and national survival.

Britain, which, as is well.known imports half its food in peace-time now grows a part of the deficit at home, in order to save shipping for war-transport. Production has been largely stimulated by 'Grow for Victory' campaigns in which even royal parks have been converted into farmsteads But the chief instrument employed to meet the situation is rationing—with. its concomitant of price control—which has proved so potent in cutting down luxuries, reducing the total consumption and effecting an equitable distribution. A balanced diet has been antomatically achieved by a manipulation of prices. Provision has been made to meet special needs, such as those of expectant mothers and hard-working factory hands, children and invalids.

The problem in India, though similar, is not identical. For one thing India does not suffer from an acuteness of scarcity as Britain did. She grows nearly enough food. For another thing rationing is too drastic and complicated a device to apply to India's vast distances and differing conditions; a measure of State interference not to be thought of, unless driven to it by necessity. The chief difficulty in India, at present, at any rate, what looms largely, and touches the daily life irksomely is distribution. The presence of the profiteer and the hoarder is its most sinister feature.

Next to rationing is state control of a kind, backed by vigilance and legislation. The measures undertaken in Pudukkottai in this respect may serve to illustrate State direction adopted to bring about this end. The cultivator in Pudukkottai who would bring new land under the plough is granted concessions in tax and irrigation and in the matter of seed and manure. A recent legislation penalises hoarding of food-suffs, condiments and illuminants, and–let traders note and be warned—hoarders will be punished not only for hoarding but also, *for refusing to sell or sell at a fair price.* In suspected cases the hoard may be seized and auctioned.

Thus the Governments of India, States and Provinces are adopting control measures short of rationing but whether it will stop here or necessitate more direct governmental action would depend on the attitude taken by India's multitudinous traders and consumers. It is the part of wisdom to be warned in time—it is also, at this hour, the part of patriotism and national safety.

Wisdom crieth in the streets. The National War Front warns from every village, corner and market place. Hereafter ignorance can be no excuse.

A word to the poor in particular. If you will only will it, there is a way to save on food and yet grow healthier and stronger. Hand-pound your rice, substitute millets in part, which cost less but give more energy; substitute vegetables, which, if you grow yourself, cost nothing. Why, if you also have your own poultry, or sheepfold or a small dairy, so much the better. When you buy. demand fair price and refuse to knuckle under to the trader. The State will help you to buy your food out of the hands of the hoarder and the profiteer.

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**THE WAR SITUATION.** 'Fair and Foul' seems to us to be the proper description of the week's events. In the FAR EAST the war has been going well for the Allies. During the past six weeks the Chinese operating between NANCHENG and NANCHANG, LISUI and WENCHOW have driven the Japanese from one place to another and re-occupied some of those bases from which TOKYO could be bombed. The Japanese grip on the CHEKIANG-KIANGSI railway has also relaxed.

In the South-west Pacific American occupation has extended to six islands in the SOLOMONS group and the initial advance on Milne Bay has been thwarted, though according to the latest reports a fresh Japanese aggression has started nearer MORESBY.

But it is well to take heed of the warning that comes from 'responsible quarters in WASHINGTON' in a Chungking message. The Battle of the SOLOMONS is not a major or final victory—Chinese successes may be due to Japanese withdrawals. The recent Asiatic successes are therefore no guarantee of INDIA'S safety.

The foulest part of the week's news comes from RUSSIA where the gallant Soviet armies are slowly giving way before STALINGRAD and the enemy, while holding himself in the central and northern sectors is creeping towards GROZNY and NOVOROSSISK.

It may be remembered that GERMANY'S attack on RUSSIA started for the plunder of Russian oil and food, after Ribbentrop had failed to grab them by negotiation. But Russian winter and Russian counter-offensive baulked Hitler before the very gates of MOSCOW and LENINGRAD though it coincided with Japanese attack which by opening a two-ocean war helped Hitler for the time being. His hopes were again frustrated by AMERICA'S entry into the war. Hitler's present strategy is to break RUSSIA before Anglo-American power gathers momentum. Consequently Allied strategy is to help RUSSIA at all costs. It is imperatively necessary that the Russian Army which Timoshenko keeps intact should be kept in being, if need be, by opening a new front, as an emergency measure, or by direct help and re-inforcement, and by every other means open to the Allies.

Rommel, meanwhile, has assumed his offensive activities in EGYPT but whether it will develop into a major operation time alone will show.

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**THE NIGHTMARE OF A SECOND FRONT.** BRITAIN and the Allies may open a Second Front, it may be next week, or next month or next year and he would be a bold man who can declare when or where. But the active preparations that GERMANY is

now making in western EUROPE against a possible invasion betray her trepidation. After DIEPPE, particularly, the whole of the French coast fronting the Channel and the Atlantic is being kept in a state of permanent alert, all round the clock, and is guarded with a new type of mobile artillery. A German order issued to the troops occupying BELGIUM envisages the possibility of a retreat, in which event the Commanders are given every freedom to destroy places, to execute suspects without trial, and to place women and girls at the head of their withdrawing columns, in order to prevent guerillas and parachutists operating against them during their flight. News of a possible Second Front is also given wide publicity in all the German-controlled press and radios, partly to prepare the home front for the worst, partly to advertise defence measures that are being carried out, and partly also to frighten the enslaved nations by warning them of the frightfulness that would follow an invasion. But the occupied countries show no such concern while indications exist on the other hand that they are rather looking forward to the day of their liberation.

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**THE R. A. F.** Figures published by the Air Ministry on August 12 leave no doubt of the R. A. F's growing offensive power over GERMANY. The bomb-load for the June—July period for the past 3 years has been: 1940—3,500 tons: 1941—8,500 and 1942-13,000 tons. In a single month-July 12 to August 11, of 30 nights, the R. A. F. was over GERMANY for 13 nights, the number of planes on each occasion, varying from 100 to more than 600; and the bomb-loads from 450 to 700 tons; averaging 450 tons, which is very much higher than the German average over BRITAIN which was only 250 tons even during the heavist raids.

But while the German objectives are the so-called 'Baedeker' towns like CANTERBURY, NORWICH and BATH the R. A. F. has strictly resisted the temptation to *blitz* German cities without military value. To a recent suggestion in the House of Commons on June 18, to destroy German towns and villages in reprisal for the Nazi execution of innocent hostages Mr. Atlee turned a deaf ear, humorously remarking, 'There will not be enough German villages to go round.'

British policy, which is at the same time, militarily sound and also humanitarian is bearing fruit. Aerial reconnaissance photographs giving details down to particular factories and workshops, blown up reveal that the loss already caused is damaging.

Now that the American Air Force also is on the European scene, with 150 aerodromes being prepared in BRITAIN for maintaining 2,000 aircraft with 400,000 ground personnel the day is not far off when Anglo-American combination in the air will bring about the complete devastation of German war production.

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**FRUSTRATION OF A MADMAN'S DREAMS.** BRAZIL's declaration of war should have shattered Hitler's wild dreams of world conquest. If Dr. Rauschnnig is to be trusted Hitler's ambition was to create a greater GERMANY in the heart of South AMERICA by the conquest of BRAZIL. He wanted to take advantage of her vulnerable coastline and the large immigrant Axis population that had already settled there. But BRAZIL has now turned round.

BRAZIL, though militarily backward, compared with European States or U. S. still leads other South American republics in this respect. She has an army of 221,000 regulars, 100,000 professionals, and a military police of 40,000. Military training is compulsory for all males above the age of 21. BRAZIL has two battleships, two light cruisers and eight destroyers, four submarines and a shipping tonnage of 52,864. Her air force consists of 12 squadrons. Pan-American Airways have built 12 excellent air fields forming a ring of defence round the coastal bulge.

BRAZIL possesses a rubber growing area of 1,400,000 square miles out of the world's total rubber area of 2,300,000 square miles, and herein Vargas has a good opportunity just now of capturing the world's markets, as Malayan rubber is no longer available. U. S. also by taking over the Brazilian iron deposits has ousted the German steel magnates from MIRAS GERAS near RIO DE JANEIRO, where they were getting 15,000 million tons annually. It was to this area that Krupps had offered to transfer the entire Skoda works from CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

Politically BRAZIL is South AMERICA's leader. Her entry into the war will encourage other States such as CHILE and ARGENTINA to follow suit.

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**THE IRAN—IRAQ COMMAND.** The creation of a separate command under General Sir H. Maitland Wilson is a distinct advantage. For one thing it has simplified and concentrated Allied strategy in this area. It may be remembered that in the first arrangement these countries were placed under the Indian Command, with BAGHDAD some 2,400 miles from NEW DELHI, across difficult communications and with varying strategic problems at the two ends. The transfer of the area, in January of this year to the MIDDLE EAST Command did not improve the situation, as CAIRO is again 2,000 miles from TEHERAN, communications between the two limited and the strategic problems dissimilar. The present arrangement, with 3 separate Commands for INDIA, IRAN-IRAQ and EGYPT enables undivided attention and concentrated effort in each sector. The selection of 'jumbo' Wilson, 'one of the finest technicians' as Mr. Churchill described him is a happy augury. He is the hero of the 400 mile dash to BENGHAZI early in 1940.

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**RUSSIAN AIR RAIDS OVER GERMANY.** A new feature of last week's warfare was the renewed Russian air raid on GERMANY. It is true that in August last Russian planes were over GERMANY and RUMANIA at least 4 times and attacked BERLIN also. But these activities subsequently ceased, probably because the German advance pushed back the Russian bases too far and the planes themselves were primarily required for Russian defence. The present resumption of these hostilities over POLAND, East PRUSSIA, especially over WARSAW, 'with a large force of bombers' leads to the conclusion that the Russian position in this respect has improved. It looks as if Russian factories are now able to produce long-range bombers in greater number and the arrival of Allied supplies has enabled her to release some of her existing craft for this venture.

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**AXIS AND INDIA.** As was to be expected Axis propaganda has made a sinister use of the Congress 'Quit India' resolution and its aftermath. In has enabled the mischief-mongers to

trade in falsehood. Here are a few samples. One of them is that Mahadev Desai was poisoned in prison, a second that Lord Linlithgow is under orders of transfer, and, a third that Mr. C. R. has asked the British to quit. The absurdity is self-evident.

It is now possible to locate the particular manufactory from which these mendacious reports originate. While TOKYO pretends to get its information from 'independent sources' and names LISBON, STOCKHOLM and a mystic Nichi Nichi ' man from the snows of the Himalayas' in order to mislead the truth is now out that they are minted at BERLIN, as the following Japanese message from SOFIA (BULGARIA) to FUKAMACHI-MANICHI (SHANGAI) on 27th June, 1942 reveals.

' There are special arrangements by which Indian news can be supplied gratis by D. N. B. (German News Agency) in SHANGHAI. See that you do not fail to print it entirely in your paper. Glimpf (D. N. B. Chief in SHANGHAI) is to receive instructions about it from D. N. B. BERLIN. Get in touch with him. Enomoto Liakof.'

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**BIPUL.** Marshal Bipul Souggram—Siam's Quisling is trying his best to set himself up into a divinity. A broadcast in May told the Siamese, 'Have faith in your leader. Have 'Bipul' in yourlips'. Bipul is overhauling, that is, upsetting THAI life. A pseudo New Life Movement has been started insisting on THAIS' own manners and customs ; a strict regimentation of life has been ordered, in Nazi fashion, in the name of THAI nationalism. But it is true that this God doth shake. With a market flooded with overvalued yen and, exports completely ruined Bipul has been forced to declare a state of emergency and to lament, ' It will be difficult to get financial matters settled quickly. Every country gets into difficulties with its finances. Please buy everything THAI.' A drowning man clutches at a straw.

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# WHERE IS THE U. S. NAVY?

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*President Roosevelt's Reply.*

That day of Pearl Harbour contained the darkest hour of our Navy's history. Infamously attacked and seriously damaged, ships of our Fleet were put out of commission and over 3,000 men were killed or wounded.

**In the months that followed—months without victories—our enemies taunted us with the question : " Where is the United States Navy ?" To-day those enemies know the beginning of the answer to that question.**

They learned it in the Atlantic and in the Coral Sea and off Midway. They are learning now in their attempts to recapture that which was taken from them in the Solomon Islands.

## ANSWER TO THE ENEMY.

Where is the United States Navy ? It is there were it has always been. It is in their fighting. It is carrying out the command : "Hit our enemy, hit him again whenever and wherever we find him."

To-day, in distant places, we are fighting battles the like of which was never before known.

**In the South-West Pacific ships and planes of our Fleet, and long-range bombers of our Army, are striking at the enemy from widely-separated bases—and striking together.**

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# VICTORY FOR ALLIES.

## Sikorski's forecast.

"The entry of the United States in the war has automatically decided its final result.

"The war will not end in 1942, as some believe, but will be protracted through a fourth winter.

"The present period and the beginning of 1943 will, rather, be a period of gradual exhaustion for the enemy, weakening him both morally and physically preparing the way for the final triumph by increasing the concentrating forces of the anti-Germrn coalition for decisive blows.

"Hitler has paid dearly for his conquests in the blood of German youth. The German losses since the outbreak of the war amount to 1,500,000 dead."

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# WHY NAVAL NEWS IS SCANTY.

## SECRECY AND SECURITY.

(*The Observer*).

The complaint is often heard, not only by Pressmen whose business it is to collect and disseminate news and descriptions of what is happening in the world, but also by the public, that whereas the doings of the Army and the Air Force are described in detail and at length very soon after they happen, little is allowed to be heard of the work of the Navy.

Even when the Navy has had encounters with the enemy, skilfully conducted and highly successful though they may have been, official announcements give only the barest outline of what has happened.

Moreover, the accounts of any Press correspondents who may have been present, it is complained, are often much delayed before being allowed to be published, and even then they are confined to descriptions in the most general terms; much of what they consider to be of the greatest interest, in every way analogous to what they would have been allowed to describe in writing of Army or Air Force operations, is suppressed altogether at the behest of a draconic naval censor.

### NO "OBSCURANTISM"

It is true—unfortunately, from the point of view of the complainants–that much less can be published about operations at sea than about those on land or in the air. But the cause of this lies not in the obscurantism of naval censors but in the nature of naval warfare.

Land and air battles, of which descriptions often provide such thrilling reading and give the public the sense of knowing all about the life and doings of the men in those Services, are chiefly in the nature of separate operations, complete in themselves, over and done with as soon as they are finished.

To publish descriptions of them, their course, and what happened in them can rarely prejudice the success of future operations, which take place in other places and different circumstances.

But sea operations, on the other hand, are continuous, and clashes with the enemy are generally only incidents in the course of them. They are going on all the time, for their province is to keep sea traffic moving, while guarding it in its movement.

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# THE STRAIN ON THE LUFTWAFFE.

*The 'Observer'—April 26.*

There is a growing belief that, while we may have made the serious mistake of under-estimating the enemy in many respects, in regard to the strength of the German Air Force we have done the reverse.

It is evident from Britain's immunity from heavy air attacks since the Nazis became embroiled with Russia that the Luftwaffe is not big enough to carry on two fullscale offensives simultaneously. For this the explanation may well lie in a lack of trained pilots and crews rather than in a shortage of first-line aircraft.

Let us examine Germany's air losses, to date. Lord Halifax said at Dallas, Texas, recently, that British arms had destroyed at least 10,000 German aircraft. This is almost certainly an understatement, for it referred only to aircraft losses announced in official communiqués, and took no account of the thousands of others probably destroyed or damaged, which our pilots and gunners did not claim because their end was not actually observed.

## A RUSSIAN ESTIMATE.

Major-General of Aviation Grendhal announced last week that the Russians had wiped out the entire air personnel with which the Luftwaffe entered the war. His calculations showed that almost 14,000 German aircraft had been shot down on the eastern front, and he put the loss of pilots and crews at 38,000.

The most reliable estimates put at 2,000 machines Germany's losses at the hands of Poland, Norway, France, Holland, Belgium, Greece, and Yugoslavia. This makes a total of 26,000 German aircraft actually destroyed in operations, not allowing for the many damaged machines which failed to get home, for accidents in training and while on active service, and destroyed on the ground. A modest estimate of the real total of aircraft which Germany has lost since the start of the war is 35,000.

The Luftwaffe started the war with about 10,000 trained pilots, and during the first sixteen months of hostilities, in spite of casualties, they increased the total to between 13,000 and 15,000. He quoted German prisoners as saying that Germany now has seventy-four pilot schools, each with 150 pupils, who train only for from three to six months.

## ACCIDENT RATE.

If this is correct, the maximum output from all schools is 44,000, assuming a three months' training period, and 22,000 if they receive six months' tuition. This presupposes what is well known to be impossible—namely, that flying training can be carried on all the year round. It is doubtful if Germany's actual output is more than 20,000 pilots a year, and if they are given instruction for only three months before being sent on operations the accident rate must be appalling.

Berlin radio claimed a few days ago that since the start of the war 8,612 British aircraft had been destroyed. Whether this figure is correct or not—and it would be exceptional for Goebbels to be accurate—an Air Ministry spokesman said recently that our output of pilots and crews is more than adequate to meet our heaviest operational losses and we have trained crews for which aircrft cannot at present be provided.

## THE EMPIRE SCHEME.

The vast majority of our flying men are graduates of the great Empire Air Training Scheme in Canada, which is several months ahead of schedule. One of many advantages of using Canada for training is that flying is possible all the year, and without the attendant risks of black-out and enemy operations

**It may well be that the Empire Scheme will prove the decisive factor in the air war, giving us an overwhelming strength over the enemy, and allowing the combined forces of the British Empire and the United States to sweep the air menace of Germany, Japan and Italy from the skies.**

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# HUNGER IN EUROPE

*(The London Times).*

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The Inter-Allied Informatien Committee has now issued as a pamphlet facts about food conditions in Europe and rationing under the Axis which it first made public earlier in the year. The record is black enough in itself, but since the information was compiled the situation has gone from bad to worse, as it was bound to do; and the end is not yet. The deterioration has been more rapid and ravaging in some countries than in others, but none has escaped the scourge which HITLER'S war has brought in its train. Hunger has indeed come to Europe. Such a fact, for example, as that in one place dogmeat costs 8s. a lb. and cats are selling at 20s. and upwards each—and, that both are accounted "luxuries"—is no more than a minor detail in the story of a deepening distress. In Greece, so foully struck down by the combined forces of the Axis after a heroic defeat of the Italian part of it, famine takes its heavy toll of young and old. The British and other Governments have been able to send some relief to the sufferers, and would send more if there was not hindrance from the enemy. Greece, however, is a special case, aud what it has been possible to do there cannot be extended to the other victims of the German and Italian war-lords.

One particulary revolting feature of the plight to which Europe has been reduced is the deliberate justification of it as an element in Nazi policy. Political and racial purposes are being fulfilled in the systematic impoverishment and plundering of the unhappy peoples on the German periphery. The

process is seen at its ghastliest in the treatment of the Polish nation. LEY, the so-called leader of German labour, expressed an essential principle of Nazi statecraft rather than one of his own brutal axioms when he said: **"A lower race needs less room, less clothing, less food, and less culture than a higher race. The German cannot live in the same fashion as the Pole and the Jew."** The principle, inherent in the doctrine of the *Herrenvolk*, is being applied in varying degrees of savagery throughout the occupied continent. Not all are classed, as the Poles are, as sub-human, but all are classed as of inferior stock. There was, and is, less food for those to whom it rightfully belongs because the superior German requires more. In the occupied countries the ration always favours the invader. It is this principle and the inevitable diversion of supplies and labour to meet the needs of German war industry which are bringing hunger to ever widening circles of Europeans and in ever increasing severity. Such is the immediate infamy of the "new order."

Into this picture GOERING'S speech to German workers fits naturally. It was a revealing speech in more ways than one. In it GOERING spoke of a second front, but, significantly, the reference was not to another fighting front, but to the home front, on which conditions, although not comparable to the dreadful Russian winter which the German soldiers were required to endure at HITLER'S own behest, are neither happy nor harmonious. This has become Germany's "hardest war", GOERING told the men and women on the home front; "harshness" was having to be resorted to—for their own individual good, of course, and for national survival; but amid the worsening trials and tribulations there was, for what it was worth, the assurance, in GOERING'S words, of "the unending kindness" of HITLER'S "great heart." The speech, in fact, was marked by a different emphasis. Clearly, beyond all imputations of wishful thinking, Germany has reached a new phase. Her first war winter was difficult but tolerable. The Polish campaign had been a cheap spectacular conquest; rigid rationing had guaranteed a reasonable distribution of the available food, which, if not abundant, was enough. The second war winter was not worse but actually better. Denmark, Norway, Belgium, the Netherlands, France, had been successively overrun, again at low cost in casualties; well-stocked lands had been pillaged with characteristic Teutonic thoroughness; the German table had been enriched and the German home embellished with other people's foods and goods. It had been, in fact, the year of the great loot.

The third war winter saw the sources of spoliation drying up. On German admissions it was a difficult winter. The Russian campaign, which had the double purpose of destroying the Red Army and gaining the "bursting granaries" of the Ukraine, failed to achieve either. A salient consequence of the miscalculated costliness and continuance of a campaign that was designed to be sharp and short was the demand of the army for still more men and of the armaments industry for still more labour, to the detriment of agriculture. Both as a scapegoat and as a sop to the victims of a system which is paying them rising dividends of distress, DARRE, HITLER'S Minister of Agriculture, has been dismissed. It would be easy to read too much into this phase, with its harder times to be borne by the masses and its harsher measures to be applied by the Nazi bosses. It is enough to mark it as a sign pointing—at what distance it would be foolish to try to guess—to nemesis for the pillagers. Meanwhile for Europe the tragedy is vast and tormenting—the more so as it is for the present beyond human power to alleviate it. The responsibility for bringing swift succour to the looted lands and their hungering inhabitants after victory will rest primarily on the Americans and ourselves. The scale of the help must be equal to the direness of the need.

# THE PLIGHT OF ITALY.

## DUMB DISMAY.

(*The Times*).

Mussolini's most pressing cares are grimly material: his latest attempts to tighten up rationing have been determined by factors of longer term than the recent tremors in Germany. But his exhortation of the prefects is a faithful echo in tone and even in detail of its German original, and Italians who last week heard Mussolini pleading sheer necessity for his latest tightening of the screw cannot in their minds dissociate the Duce's dilemma from Hitler's loss of political poise. An imperturbably victorious Germany has for years formed the background and foundation of Mussolini's position. Without it, Italy's concept of the present war can only relapse into incoherence.

For the past year Italy has figured only as a provider of auxiliary troops for the German-led armies in Russia and in Libya, and as the possessor of a fleet more or less in being and occasionally in action. But severe privations, aggravated by corruption and inefficiency among the bureaucrats and the business men, have prevented the Italians from enjoying the consolations of this comparative exemption from direct military burdens In the coldest recorded winter, Italian householders who could obtain a quarter of the subnormal fuel supplies of the previous year were exceptionally lucky. Those who by necessity or scruple lived on their legal rations got no more than seven ounces of bread a day up to the middle of March. After that their pittance fell to five ounces, or the equivalent of two small rolls. This forced privation is naturally compared with the relatively enviable lot of the German, who considers himself far from pampered on twice the quantity. No doubt many of the peasants of Italy have been able to subtract from their forced contribution to the public grain store a sufficiency for their own families. But in some regions the collectors have been vigilant and afraid to wink at disobedience, and in the towns there are many for whom black market purchases were too dear. The success of a large part of the population in eluding the reduction of their food and fuel allowances to what Mussolini himself calls an "absolute minimum" has thrown into the starkest relief the plight of those who fail to do so. What has further rendered the last year intolerable in spite of the relative inaction of the Italian armed forces has been the absence of a million and a half male Italians from their homes—as prisoners of war, as labourers in Germany, or as soldiers on the Axis fronts. In none of these functions can they be recompensing Italy for their absence from the fields and orchards where they are desperately needed.

The effort to depict the war as a fulfilment of Italian traditions and an instrument of Italian interests defeats the most fertile of Mussolini's writers and speakers. The incessant assaults upon Malta—that overworked theme of Italian propaganda in the period between the wars—have been left almost wholly to the Germans. Recently there have been more frequent appearances of Italian aircraft in the skies over that heroic island. This, like other events, may indicate the inability of the Luftwaffe to cope simultaneously with the preparations for the great continental offensive and with outlying tasks over the seas and the islands. But the Regia Aeronautica has not reappeared in these battles at the very gates of Italy with any impressive numbers of aircraft of new and modern type. Its modest performance illustrates the plight of Italy's war production, dependent as it is upon the residues of

metal and fuel which the Reich, after absorbing its giant ration, leaves over for division between Italy, France, and the lesser industrial countries. Italian spokesmen apologetically proclaim that Italian war production is now much greater than when Italy entered the war. If the claim is true, it means only that the unimpressive production of a country which in 1939, after the Abyssinian and Spanish adventures, was already unable to afford the imported materials for a really far-reaching programme has been some what speeded up. The poor quality of the Italian machines sent by Mussolini to assist in the bombing of London in 1940, scarcely any of which avoided destruction in our seas or on our soil, afforded visible proof of the state of Italian industry early in the war.

The introduction in the last Libyan campaign of some respectable tanks of Italian make does something to offset the evidence of lagging production in most branches. But the exportation of skilled Italian workers to Germany proves of itself that Milan and Turin are regarded as at best secondary arsenals of the Axis. In the industrial, as well as on the military field Italy's participation takes the form of auxiliary and reserve service in support of the predominant partner to the north. This impression will hardly flatter that national pride which the older Fascists had so recklessly cultivated. Appearances must continually be forced so that some room for the ghost of Italy's "national aspirations" may be found in the general picture. There may thus be a propagandist purpose in the insistent claim to an increased Italian contribution to the assault upon Malta. The grotesque magnification of small naval episodes in the Mediterranean hashed up for day and weeks on end in the Italian wireless and Press sevices indicates how desperate is the need to find some encouraging features in a war which began for Italy with boastful shouts for the incorporation of Corsica and Tunis, Malta, Gibraltar and Suez in Mussolini's Empire.

Laval's return to power in France relegates to a still dimmer twilight this series of sweeping claims against France. Official Italian embarrassment over the instalment of a friend of Germany at Vichy has been unconcealed. A certain number of obscurely menacing articles in the Italian Press and some anti-French street-demonstrations were perhaps intended to warn Hitler that a German deal with Laval would be ill received at the Palazzo Venezia. The consideration may have weighed with Hitler in causing him to omit any mention of France from his Reichstag speech. Mussolini's annoyance may still be embarrassing to his disciple and master. But the two have linked their fate together; and Fascist Italy is no more able than Nazi Germany to escape from the ultimate consequences of her complicity in crime. Italian frustration finds expression in a great deal of busy and perhaps meaningless diplomatic manoeuvre. In the depths of the nation here is dumb dismay.

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# AMERICAS DISAPPOINT AXIS.

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America has been the most disappointing of the continents for the Axis, declares *The Times* in an editorial. That North and Central America and, in its main bulk, South America also, should be rapidly building up strength to challenge and overthrow the achievements of German pertinacity, is an asset that ranks very high on the right side of our balance-sheet.

The Germans and their allies have not been so naive as to forget about America between the wars. Both Hitler and Mussolini have shown keen recollection of how the engagement of American resources against her set the seal of defeat last time on the German cause. This time Hitler intended, since a friendly America was not to be hoped for, to profit at least by a promotion of perplexities and distractions in its constituent countries.

In the United States a few years ago there were fissures which looked like growing wide and deep. The signal failure of Hitler and his friends to turn them to account has been due to the gathering strength of American opinion in the past ten years. When Hitler had to resort to the German-American Bund as the agent of his designs, he involved his syampathisers in a flagrantly anti-American cause. The vast propagandist activities which the Bund and its associates conducted during the first two years of war were thus only a degree removed from the formally treasonable character which they necessarily took on after Pearl Harbour. In peace and war alike, however, the security forces of the American Government have shown themselves more than capable of controlling them.

The disappointments of Nazism in Latin America have been no less intense. Since the beginnings of National Socialism, it had been decided to bring a large German community into Brazil directly under the rule of Berlin, and the scheme had gone far forward before Brazil's masterful President Vargas interposed to assert the unity and independence of the largest South American Republic.

The fruit of the German alliance with Italy was to have been that the Italian communities, large in several of the republics but for the most part loyally disposed towards them, should have acted as auxilliaries to the Germans. This seems not to have happened in the expected measure. Assertions, of Italian nationalism sometimes take the opposite course, as is shown in the news of the imposing "Free Italian" demostration in Montevideo.

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## RUMBLING IN THE PACIFIC.

(*The Sunday Times*).

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There is an uneasy rumbling in the vast area of the Pacific. In warfare conceived in the German manner, a lull portends trouble. Time is a jewel, and is never wasted.

Since the incidence of the monsoon in Burma, Japanese activities have obviously changed their direction. But there are also some signs of uncertainty in their strategy which may have their roots elsewhere.

In the flush of their success Japanese naval units penetrated the Indian Ocean, pounced on the undefended Andaman Islands, and approached Ceylon. It must have seemed to them possible that the speed of their triumph might forestall British reinforcements. Two cruisers and an old aircraft-carrier were, it is true, overwhelmed; but the rebuff that the Japanese planes received from Ceylon showed that defence was already strong; the monsoon was not far away; and the Japanese wisely withdrew.

## THE CORAL SEA DEFEAT.

Meanwhile the Chinese checked an advance up the Burma Road, and the Japanese approach to Northern Australia was stayed by the outpost of Port Moresby, by growing Allied air strength, and, above all, by the Japanese defeat on March 10 in the Coral Sea. This battle will possibly prove to have been the turning point in the war in the Pacific.

Swollen with confidence, the Japanese Command despatched an invasion fleet of warships, troop transports and auxiliary vessels unprovided with adequate air support. They committed the same indiscretion, with less justification, that the *Prince of Wales* and *Repulse* had done, and they paid the same penalty. At small cost the United States naval air arm routed the invaders, claiming ten ships sunk and crippled and five others severely damaged.

A month later the Japanese Command suffered a further blow. True to German teaching, Tokyo has hitherto waged war solely on enemy soil. The first American bomb that fell on Japan on April 18 shattered the complacency of the people and their faith in the invulnerability of their homeland. The shock to their confidence was even greater than the blow to the Germans when British bombers gave the lie to Goering.

## NEW EXPEDITION.

It seems as though in the light of these two events Japan had to recast her strategy. It is not easy to deduce her new lines of thought. Her activities have been scattered so widely. First, in May Japan extended her operations in China and effected a fresh landing. At the same time she was preparing new overseas expeditions, for the opening days of June, to the Aleutians and Midway Island. Her defeat near Midway was far greater than that of the Coral Sea. The establishment of 10,000 men on uninhabited islands in the Aleutians is small compensation for the losses incurred in that battle. About the same time, forces amounting, it is said, to 35 divisions gathered in Manchuria.

In order to try to penetrate the Japanese design, let us recapitulate her objects in going to war. Her primary aim was the hegemony of the Pacific. Some say it was the domination of the world. Assuming the more modest claim, one can say that to achieve complete domination of the Far East it would be necessary to break all Chinese resistance ; to drive the British out of Hongkong, Singapore, Malaya, Burma and India : to seize the Dutch East Indies ; conquer, occupy and hold Australia ; overrun the Philippines ; capture the American islands of the Pacific ; and force both Governments to acquiese in the " New Order". If Germany fails to break Russia, Japan may also have to defeat the Soviet Siberian Army as well.

## " FRIGHTENING DISPERSAL."

It is a programme to stagger the imagination. Put forward for discussion a year ago, it would have been laughed out of court. Who would have conceived that within three months Japan would have achieved as much as she did? Nevertheless, tasks remain for her greater than those that Hitler has faced. For he has hitherto followed his golden rule of one at a time. Japan appears to be engaged on all at once. The allotment of her resources so far as they can be deduced does not greatly help. Chinese spokesmen reckon her army at 90 divisions. Of these, they affirm, approximately 30 are in China and 35 in Manchuria. If we allot ten to Malaya and Burma, two to Hongkong, five to the Philippines and perhaps the same to the Dutch East Indies, with the equivalent of one in the Aleutians, there remain two unaccounted for.

It is not a great reserve. To an orthodox soldier it is a frightening dispersal. This, of couree, is largely guess work. The estimates for China and Manchuria may be wide of the truth. The garrisons in Malaya and the Dutch East Indies may have been reduced. Finally, the Chinese may be wrong, and the Japanese Army may be larger.

**Nevertheless, dispersal is obvious. Enemy forces in China appear to be inadequate for their task. Recent successes have been balanced by setbacks on no small scale.**

### PREPARATIONS TO ATTACK RUSSIA.

Yet latest reports indicate renewed activities at Port Morseby, as though invasion of Australia is again to the fore. Whatever the Japanese plans may be, it is clear that Allied chances of striking at the scattered enemy remain great. If our preparations can outstrip Japanese, they should find it hard to hold what they have. But delay must not be long. Cut off as she is, China will find the strain growing until it might become intolerable. The first call on our offensive power must be the relief of such a gallant ally. For Japan has no time to lose. If we can open the road to China, supply her with machines or armoured units, and establish an air force on aerodomes within reach of Tokyo, Japan will be facing a dangerous situation. So much is obvious.

If, therefore, Russia remains hard pressed in Europe and Japan feels secure from an attack in Manchuria, she may gather her forces for a great sweep through China which Chiang Kai-shek would find hard to resist.

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On the other hand, latest indications point to further strengthening of the Japanese forces in Manchuria and preparations for attack. If the Japanese have reason to believe that the Russian Siberian armies have been reduced in strength and especially drawn upon for tank reinforcements for the west, they may be tempted to try to knock out their traditional enemy and relieve themselves of the ever-present threat of air attack from Vladivostok and so be free to turn in strength on China.

JL
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# JAPAN AND RUSSIA.

by

*Major E. W. Sheppard in the " Daily Herald".*

Several weeks ago it was forecast that Japan would be likely to attack Russia about now. Weather in North-Eastern Asia is now at its best for fighting, and at the moment the Japanese have more or less a free hand in the Far-East so far as Britain and America are concerned. This respite, of course, is not likely to last long. Japan may have considered employing this time on one or the other of her two remaining principal aims—conquest of China or invasion of Australia. But she may very well have concluded that they are beyond her powers.

For some weeks now her forces have been steadily moving north into Inner Mongolia and Manchukuo on the Russian frontier. Meanwhile Russia is hard beset in Europe and could not send any help to the Far East in case of a Japanese attack there. All these signs may indicate that the long-foretold Japanese attack on the Russian Far Eastern lands is imminent.

What is Japan's most likely strategy? One of her first objectives will almost certainly be at least to neutralise and, if possible, capture the great fortress and naval and air base of Vladivostok, which is, in Napoleon's phrase, "a pistol pointed at the heart of Japan". Obsessing fear of heavy bombing of their homeland, which seems more and more to condition the strategy of the Japanese, will lend a new urge to this move.

They would probably try to occupy and put out of commission the great new industrial area north of Vladivostok. Of this, the city of Komsomolsk is the centre and symbol. Here are the bulk of the industries which supply the Russian Far Eastern armies and are designed to make them for many months independent of help from the west.

But help from the west would be expected, and, if possible, the Japanese must prevent it from arriving. That object would be practically achieved if the trans-Siberian railway west of Primorsk could be severed and kept severed. So the broad outlines of Japanese strategy are fairly clear.

On the rest of her long battlefront Japan can afford, if need be, to stand on the defensive, though faint and subsidiary attacks elsewhere both along the Amur river and on the Inner Mongolian border would be likely features of her plan of campaign. After the experience of the Germans at Sevastopol, a direct attack on the powerful defences of Vladivostok could be hardly regarded by the Japanese High Command as an inviting proposition. An advance from Rashim, on the Korean border, would therefore be probably combined with a drive farther north possibly towards Lake Kanka, 100 miles south of Vladivostok, or Khabarovsk, with the idea of severing the railway line between Vladivostok and the north. But the Khabarovsk area itself would no doubt be stubbornly defended, for it is an obvious key point.

The main danger which the Russians have to face is a breach in their long front which would isolate their eastern wing and make its destruction possible before assistance could come from the west.

One obvious counter would seem from a map to be an advance along the railway from Manchuili toward Harbin, in the centre of Manchukuo. If successful, this would threaten the flank and rear of the first of the Japanese forces operating against Blagovestchensk and, ultimately of the whole of their armies in Manchukuo. But it is nearly 500 miles from Manchuili to Harbin, and just beyond Hailar the route of advance is blocked by the formidable moutain barrier of the Khingan range. None the less, this is a most likely Russian counter-move.

It would no doubt coincide with an advance along the trans-Siberian railway eastwards from the Jhikta area to reopen that line if it should be cut, as it almost certainly would be shortly after the outbreak of hostilities. Such a move would be carried out by the Third Red Banner Army stationed in the Baikal area. The Second Army about Blagovestchenk and Khabarovsk and the First Army in the Primorsk province would probably have defensive roles in the face of the intitial Japanese attack.

It is difficult actually to assess the forces available on either side. The highest estimate of the Japanese forces in Manchukuo puts them at 50 divisions getting on for a million men, but 25 to 30 divisions is a more likely figure. Estimates of Russian forces vary very widely, but, as the lowest puts them at a million, it may be assumed that the Japanese, so far from having superiority, would be inferior in numbers, in the whole theatre.

But they will have the advantage of initiative and power of offensive along a long front. The Japanese will no doubt rely on repeating their past performances and gaining quick successes.

# NATIONAL WAR FRONT.

## 'GROW MORE LEEKS.'

Sow in plains, August—September; in hills, February—April. Rich soil and constant moisture necessary. Transplant when about 4 inches high, into trenches 8 inches deep and 9 inches wide. Seedlings should be 6 inches apart. As plants get larger, draw soil up round the stems. Remove the tops of leaves regularly. This vegetable is not really successful below 2,000 feet.

# PROGRAMME OF LECTURES

OF THE

## Pudukkottai State National War Front Bureau.

**1942—** **LECTURE CXI**—(*Batch 3*).

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| September ... | 5, Saturday ... | Town Hall ... | 6.30 p. m. |
| | 6, Sunday ... | Pichchittanpatti ... | 6.00 p. m. |
| | | Alangudi ... | 6.00 p. m. |
| | | Vadagadu ... | 6.30 p. m. |
| | | Municipal Office ... | 6.45 p. m. |
| | 7, Monday ... | Annavasal ... | 6.00 p. m. |
| | | Kilakkurichchi ... | 6.30 p. m. |
| | 8, Tuesday ... | College (A) English ... | 10.15 a. m. |
| | | Ramachandrapuram ... | 6.00 p. m. |
| | | Rayavaram ... | 6.30 p. m. |
| | 9, Wednesday. | C. S. M. High School ... | 10.00 a. m. |
| | | Rani's High School ... | 10.15 a. m. |
| | | College Tamil (Branch School) | 10.15 a. m. |
| | | Udayalippatti ... | 6.00 p. m. |
| | | Killukottai ... | 6.30 p. m. |
| | 10, Thursday... | Malaiyur ... | 6.00 p. m. |
| | | Karambakkudi ... | 6.30 p. m. |
| | 11, Friday ... | Valaramanikkam ... | 6.00 p. m. |
| | | Embal ... | 6.30 p. m. |

1942— **LECTURE CXII—(*Batch 4*).**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| September | ...12, Saturday ... | Town Hall | ... | 6.30 p. m. |
| | 13, Sunday ... | Nirpalani | ... | 7.00 p. m. |
| | | Avoor | ... | 7.30 p. m. |
| | 15, Tuesday ... | College (A) English | ... | 10.15 a. m. |
| | | Karaiyur | ... | 7.00 p. m. |
| | | Idaiyattur | ... | 7.30 p. m. |
| | 16, Wednesday. | C. S. M. High School | ... | 10.00 a. m. |
| | | Rani's High School | ... | 10.15 a. m. |
| | | College Tamil (Branch School) | | 10.15 a. m. |
| | | Vadavalam | ... | 7.00 p. m. |
| | | Sammattividuthi | ... | 7.30 p. m. |
| | 17, Thursday ... | Kiranur | ... | 7.00 p. m. |
| | | Nanjur | ... | 7.30 p. m. |
| | 18, Friday ... | Nartamalai | ... | 7.00 p. m. |
| | | Uppiliyakkudi | ... | 7.30 p. m. |

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**THE FOLLOWING PLACES WILL BE VISITED BY THE ADVERTISING PARTY OF THE NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU FROM 4 P. M. TO 5 P. M. ON THE DAYS NOTED BELOW. THE STATE BAND WILL PLAY; POSTERS WILL BE EXHIBITED; AND HAND-BILLS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AND EXPLAINED.**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Saturday | ... | 5— 9—42 | ... | Ponnamaravathi. |
| Sunday | ... | 6— 9—42 | ... | Embal. |
| Monday | ... | 7— 9—42 | ... | Konnaiyur. |
| Tuesday | ... | 8— 9—42 | ... | Ramachandrapuram. |
| Wednesday | ... | 9— 9—42 | ... | Karambakkudi. |
| Thursday | ... | 10— 9—42 | ... | Alangudi. |
| Friday | ... | 11— 9—42 | ... | Pudukkottai. |
| Saturday | ... | 12— 9—42 | ... | Vettamviduthi. |
| Sunday | ... | 13— 9—42 | ... | Virachchilai. |
| Monday | ... | 14— 9—42 | ... | Viralimalai. |
| Tuesday | ... | 15— 9—42 | ... | Konapattu. |
| Wednesday | ... | 16— 9—42 | ... | Rayavaram. |
| Thurday | ... | 17— 9—42 | ... | Kulipirai. |
| Friday | ... | 18— 9—42 | ... | Pudukkottai. |

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Sri Brihadamba State Press, Pudukkottai. 1,000—6-9-42.